

Aster lateriflorus

Calico Aster



A distinctive aster, with a strongly horizontal branching habit, and small, white (rarely pinkish or lilac) flowers along the upper sides of the branches. The center of each flower is yellow at first, then turns purplish as it ages; the common name, calico aster, refers to the lacy, dappled effect that this produces. There are some very pretty selections available commercially; some of them have beautiful dark-red stems and foliage. Very adaptable as to site. Often found in light shade.

Suggested companions: smooth aster (*Aster laevis*), New England aster (*Aster novae-angliae*), goldenrods (*Solidago* sp.), bottle-brush grass (*Hystrix patula*), Virginia wild rye (*Elymus virginicus*).

Photo Credit: Wisconsin State Herbarium,
by Robert W. Freckmann

Plant Type: Wildflower

Size: 2-4' H
 W

Water Tolerant: Somewhat

Habitat:

Open field/ Prairie
Woodland Margin
Forested Wetland
Floodplains
Riverbanks

Soil: Average Garden Soil
Rich Moist
Very Damp/Wet

Exposure: filtered
 shade

Flower Color:
White

Plant in:

Groundcover: No

Bloom Time:
August
September
October

Other Attributes:

Fall color
Deer resistant
Butterfly attracting